

Natalie,

The newsletter about the Canadian treaty was very interesting. I remember complaining about the Canadian vessel Native Dawn harassing me and you asked me if I wanted you to pass on a complaint. I told you it was not worth the effort; obviously I was dead wrong!

I will most likely be out salmon fishing and won't make the April meeting, but I believe it would be worth mentioning, we should all start documenting this harassment in our log books and send in a copy of the log.

I appreciate the efforts AAFA is giving to such a disaster as the unfair treaty. Not sure I am telling any of you what you don't already know, but it will all boil down to bureaucracy and politics. Most likely both sides are not far different as to the procedures, but no doubt the Canadian government will back their fishermen more than ours will with this current administration.

For what it is worth, here is my view of how it will work:

Having been in politics for 16 years and dealing directly with professional bureaucrats, it is no surprise that they want to charge the fisherman a fee to study the problems for which we already know that the logical answer should be with our Canadian treaty. When politics are involved there is no such thing as logic. I have found out the hard way the system cannot be changed, it can only be worked within the same illogical structure. It happens at every level of government and is entrenched to an astonishing level of incompetence and inaction of government at all levels. Contrary to belief, a win/win in political decisions seldom happen in reality, thus the most money that can be raised to hire consultants, attorneys, etc., (i.e., wheel spinning) the safer avenue to point the finger at others to justify the decision to the inevitable dissenters. What really happens is the more time and study of the issue, the better light the political win/win portico façade can be shown to all sides and the safer it is for the politicians and bureaucrats. The only consistent common denominator is the higher the level of wheel spinning involving the greatest number of players, the more money and time it takes to arrive at a decision.

It is especially hard for fishermen that are required to make decisions in split seconds to grasp the reality of this system, but please pass it on that my hat is off to the members that were involved. I not only appreciate the effort, but understand the frustration.

Gene Fisher